Ashita no Kimi wa Koko ni Inai

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Chapter 5

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By: Yamamoto Kotetsuko & Sakiya Haruhi

Credits

Scanner: Kinky
Translator: Redx12
Cleaner: Keira
Typesetter: Husky
QC: Alethiaxx
Praafreader: Kinky

http://bliss.diamond-virgin.net Bliss.Scanlations@gmail.com

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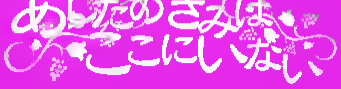

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あしたのきみはここにいない

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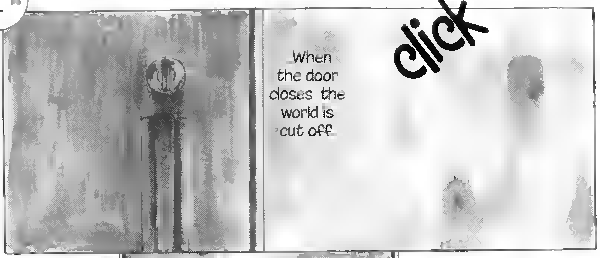

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第1話

あしたのきみはこいびと

The Social Studies room tucked away in an inconvenient corner of the school,
is usually deserted.
Except for Kitahara-sensei.
Nn...
Nn.
Social Studies Prep Room
Twitch
FEELING IT MORE INTENSELY?
NN
...

STOP SAYING "SENSEI" IT JUST KILLS THE MOOD
Haa
Ah
He seems to like this album "Amnesiac"
There's always a sad melody playing here
RADIO HEAD's AMNESIAC
Haa
Haa
SENSEI
Uhm.
Haa.
Haa.
Haa.
FUMI-CHIKA.

NN...
DOWN THERE WITH MY HAND OR MOUTH...?
WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?
!
slip
Ah..
DOWN THERE TOO...

So mean...
HNN...
LIHN...
rustle
NN
LIHN
rustle
stroke
YOU LIKE IT HERE? YOU'RE SENSITIVE HERE MIO
THERE
RIGHT
rustle
stroke
MEANIE
IT'S SO WET
IT'S LATE PLEASE HURRY
Don't make me say it... You pervert
BACK THERE?
rustle
FUMI-CHIKA...
NOT HERE
THEN WHERE?

Whenever we want to do something bad, it's always in this room
Locked in here barely an hour after school ends,
the one shamelessly pushing against his fingers is always me
fuchi
fuchi
fuchi
UHN... AH
fuchi
AH!
NGH
fuchi
shiver
HARDER, MIO
squish
HAA
HAA.
squish
HNK
HAA
YES, THAT'S GOOD
squish
KISS ME
KISS ME
SENSEI

He won't do anything unless I beg him to
But if I beg, he never denies me
DIDN'T I SAY TO STOP CALLING ME THAT...?
FUMI-CHIKA...
DO MORE...
Even if it's just physical pleasure
WITH OUR MOUTHS?

YOU CAN DO MORE, LIKE YOU WOULD WITH A GIRL...
...WE HAVE TO SET LIMITS...
WE'LL STOP HERE
BECAUSE YOU'RE STOPPING ALREADY ?
Pat
!?
YOU'RE NOT A GIRL, SO DON'T BE SILLY
Is it...
Because I'm a boy...?
His gentleness makes me feel really lonely every time
Even so I still want to feel Sensei's fingers.
KITAHARA-SAN IS NICE!
THOUGH HE'S NOT THAT YOUNG HE'S EASY-GOING...
This persistence...

Not because he's an adult
He won't hold anyone. He has no friends. But he's nice to everyone.
It's because he's indifferent
clatter
TRUE, BUT
HE'S RATHER INSCRUTABLE
clatter
YES, BUT THAT'S THE ATTRACTION!
I know I know

I like him so much even being pitied by him is okay
Year 1,
I failed Japanese History so I had to go for cram classes and exams
HAA WHAT A PAIN
Japanese History
Sensei doesn't seem to care for anyone.
But I like him.
He can take the hurt away...
I don't mind even if it's just sex.

IF YOU GUYS WOULD JUST WORK HARD...
I'D HAVE AN EASIER TIME
IT'S MORE WORK FOR ME
YOU KNOW,
I HATE CRAM CLASSES TOO
!
BUT ISN'T THAT ATTITUDE UNPROFESSIONAL?
So his brutal frankness really startled me
Friendly and articulate with a knack for saying the right things.
Sensei was one of the most popular teachers then.
HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION ISN'T COMPULSORY. SO WHETHER ANYONE FAILS OR NOT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME
NOBODY'S SO ENTHUSIASTIC AS TO THINK ONLY OF THE STUDENTS' WELFARE
TEACHERS ARE HUMAN TOO

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I TRY TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR MY STUDENTS TO SCORE BY EMPHASIZING THE MAIN POINTS
SIMPLY PUT, YOU'RE THE ONLY STUDENT WHO FAILED
Ugh
IT NOT AS BAD AS YOUR RESULTS
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT HIDING YOUR BAD ATTITUDE
rustle
WHY ARE THEY SO BAD EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE IN MY CLASS?
...OR HAVE YOU JUST BEEN PRE-TENDING?
Ugh
He's really mean
IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR EFFORT
HOW IS IT ANY DIFFERENT FROM MATH OR PHYSICS? YOU JUST NEED TO UN-DERSTAND IT RIGHT?
I've been staying up late because of my part-time job.
HE LOOKS NICE. SO I THOUGHT IT DIDN'T MATTER
YOU'RE ALWAYS SLEEPING IN MY CLASS

Aims... wrongly, even her brother's hand isn't spared!
FINISH PROOFREADING THESE BY TOMORROW!
My sister, a magazine editor, made me her unpaid assistant.
Eh!?
!?
HERE!
Asahi, please come to our office!
It's not
What it sounds like.
With no father around it's mainly my sister who pays my school fees,
so I can't refuse to help
nod nod
And each time, I end up proof reading the night before
I have Japanese History classes.
To be honest though, it's not much of an excuse.
I'M SORRY
bow

YOU'RE NOT THE REBELLIOUS TYPE
YOU DON'T HATE ME AND YOU'RE NOT LAZY, SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, MIO-KUN?
I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT
HUH...?
IF YOU HAVE A REASON, LET'S HEAR IT
I'M REALLY SURPRISED THAT HE NOTICED
Unable to resist Sensei's kindness
I told him about having to help my sister
Sensei was really surprised
THAT'S TOUGH. YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SO EARLIER.
20

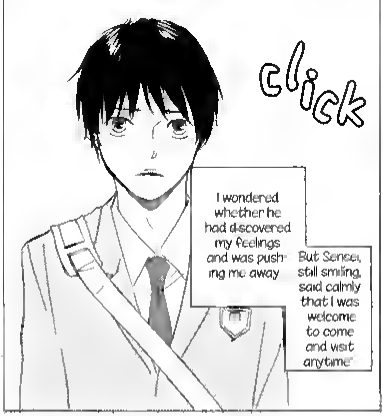
NO,
IT'S REALLY BECAUSE...
I DIDN'T ORGANIZE MY TIME PROPERLY
!
YOU'RE A GOOD KID MIO.
RUFFLE

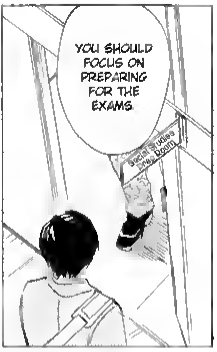
It wasn't very clear then
It was just the feeling that Sensei was far nicer than I'd expected.
??
?
!
OH?
YOU DON'T LIKE TO BE PRAISED?
Shake
Shake
After the exam Sensei patted my head and said, "Well done."
So I worked really hard and I passed the second time
Right
I'm not the only one Sensei treats nicely
TEASE
SILLY. YOU STILL WANT MORE CRAM CLASSES?
SENSEI, YOU'LL TEACH ME THIS WAY FROM NOW ON?

I didn't study Japanese History in my second year
But,
even though tea was readily available here
THERE'S ALWAYS TEA IN THIS ROOM.
HOW NICE.
YOU'RE A STUDENT. DRINKING TEA SHOULD BE THE LAST THING ON YOUR MIND.
I wasn't sure if this was one of the reasons.
those who did would find it depressing.
Though very few people came to this room
I learned that a beautiful female student confessed to Sensei
And I learned too that there was a child in all this

SENSEI SURE IS POPU-LAR.
Ha ha
ACTUALLY, WE'RE LIKE CELEBRITIES
ONCE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, THOUGH, TEACHERS ARE JUST ORDI-NARY PEOPLE.
So genial, but so dismissive at the same time
The minute he sees any hint of enthusiasm, he nips it in the bud.
Making clear the distance between us.
YOU'RE INTER-ESTING, MIO
WHY?
I'M NOT NICE AT ALL, BUT YOU CAN STILL GET ALONG WITH ME
MOST KIDS WOULD PREFER TO BE INDULGED
YOU JUST WON'T ADMIT IT.
Hmph!
'CAUSE I KNOW SENSEI IS CAPABLE OF CARING FOR PEOPLE!
He he
SO YOU'VE SEEN THROUGH ME?

But, this wasn't the only thing.
It wasn't difficult to discover my own feelings.
Always wanting to be with him to the point that the nights were an agony
But Sensei hates that. Will hate that
To be indulged.. Thinking that I would be his special student, even that was enough.
But
In my final year, Sensei said- It's time to work hard."
I was gently rejected.


click
I wondered whether he had discovered my feelings and was pushing me away
But Sensei, still smiling, said calmly that I was welcome to come and visit anytime



It's too ambiguous. And painful.

IT'S BEEN A LITTLE LONELY LATELY WITHOUT YOUR VISITS
OH?
HOW ARE YOU?
Why
This is...
Too cruel
When you were the one who turned cold suddenly...
Your visits"...?
The worst...
!!
tears

Shit...
He'll find out...
If it's like this.
He'll know...

Social Studies Prep Room
COME WITH ME

IF YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, YOU SHOULD GO HOME
How cunning of him to act like a teacher only at times like these
I hate it when he acts like a teacher
sniff
sniff
I LIKE YOU SENSEI.

MIO, YOU LIKE GUYS?
?
Shake
Shake
...YOU
WERE DATING A GIRL SIX MONTHS AGO, RIGHT? SO WHY THIS?
I'M NOT HERE FOR COUNSELING.
As Sensei said,
I dated a girl after she confessed to me.
Because I was afraid I'd never get over Sensei.

I JUST CAN'T DO IT...
UNLESS IT'S WITH YOU! SENSEI!
But because I was thinking only of Sensei I couldn't even have sex with her...
Dejected I broke up with her...
click
!?
STAND
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME EVEN IF I TELL YOU YOUR FEELINGS WON'T LAST.

YES, THEY WILL!
SO DO YOU WANT TO TRY IT EVEN IF YOU'LL BE HURT?

YES
EVEN IF YOU KNOW THE RISKS
CAN YOU STILL SAY YOU LIKE ME?
!
EVEN IF I'LL NEVER RETURN YOUR FEELINGS?

Though it really hurts...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED EVEN IF YOU DUMP ME. I'M PREPARED FOR IT!
I can't help it
YOU'RE VERY BRAVE, MIO...
YOU UNDERSTAND, TOO THAT I'M A MAN?
—YES!
CAN'T I JUST BE YOUR TEACHER?
JUST AN ORDINARY FRIEND?
BUT A TEACHER CAN'T BE A FRIEND THAT WAY
THEN, WHAT IS IT YOU WANT FROM ME?
—I WANT TO BE KISSED AND MORE
!?

OKAY
RIGHT HERE?
HAA
HN.
!

HAA
NO DATES BECAUSE WE'RE NOT A COUPLE
I WON'T BE KIND
IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS SENSEI TOUCHES ME

This was the only place where we could be together in secret.
THEN, I'LL JUST MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD
MIO
HN...
YOU...

YOU'LL FORGET ME SOON ENOUGH
I didn't quite grasp what Sensei meant by those softly spoken words back then

第2話

Lately, I've stopped smiling
Or rather
I've forgotten what it feels like to be happy...
...GUESS YOU'RE NOT OVER MIMI-CHAN YET, HUH?
...MIO
ARE YOU TIRED?
TSUJI ...!
UM... YEAH?

Girls just can't keep secrets
SORRY...
The girl whom I dated on a whim, then broke up with
was introduced by Tsuzi
The day we broke up... she told our circle of friends that I had failed at sex.
BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED 'CAUSE IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME...
UM... BUT IT WAS MY FAULT...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

...If Tsuzi hadn't mentioned it...
I wouldn't have remembered anything about her

About my relationship with Sensei
"So do you want to try it even if you'll be hurt?"
I can't tell Tsuji,
or anyone else for that matter
He's stopped doing so now
Although Sensei used to flatly refuse me
It's still ambiguous.

I know what we're doing is forbidden
But I can't help myself
Social Studies Prep
.....
MIO

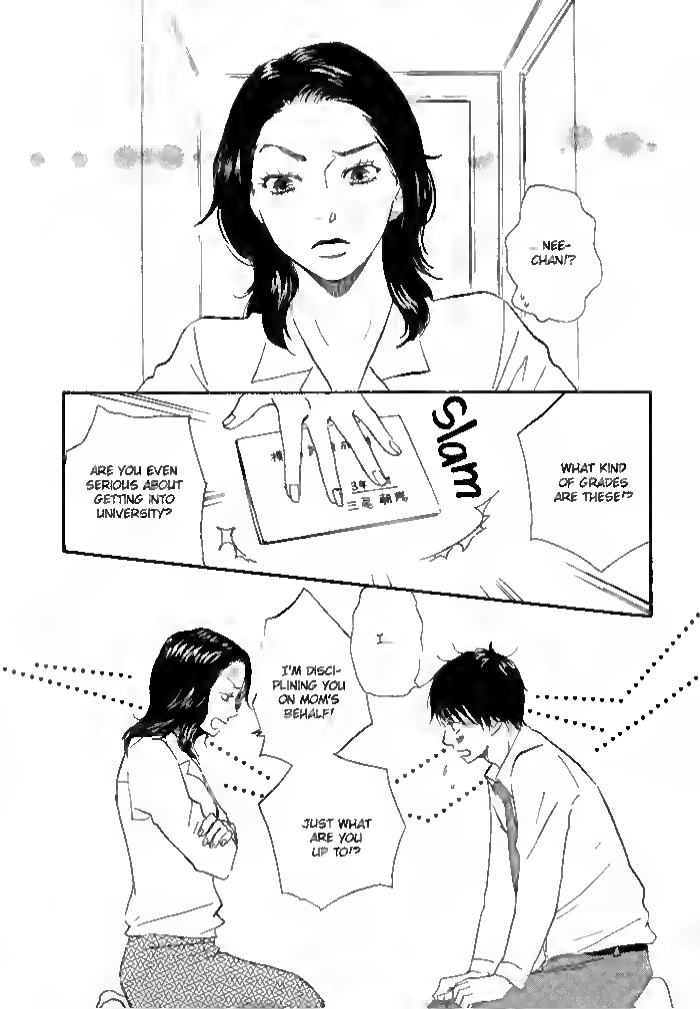
another kiss...
...I still want
WELL,
TAKE CARE THEN.
Turn
DO UP YOUR TIE PROPERLY.
OKAY

But even if I said that
Then again... I was the one who said it would be okay to carry on like this...
After we finish
he doesn't even look at me...
!?
MIA?

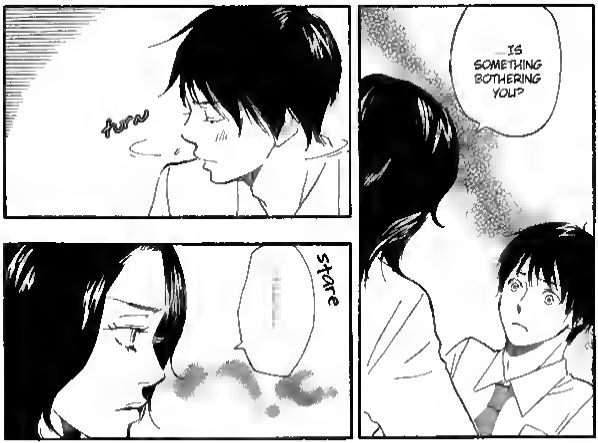
!
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
wipe
!?

My existence
Really doesn't matter to him.
Rejecting a person like this...
He might as well have said "Stop it" and pushed me away
What the hell?
"That's enough for today

CLICK
I'M HOME
!?
ASAHI!


...NEE-CHAN!?
Slam
WHAT KIND OF GRADES ARE THESE!?
ARE YOU EVEN SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING INTO UNIVERSITY?
I...
I'M DISCIPLINING YOU ON MOM'S BEHALF!
JUST WHAT ARE YOU UP TO!?

The worst
Sigh
YOU
DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE FORCED TO HELP ME WITH WORK


turn
stare
IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

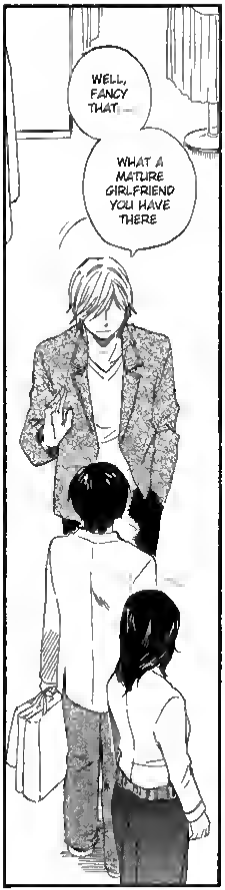
ASAHI
I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET DOWN TO STUDYING
HE HE...
IT'S REALLY NOTHING
PINCH
!!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL CRY OR GET MAD!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SMILE IN THAT GHASTLY WAY,
!?
OW!
what!?
LISTEN TO ME!

AND I HATE IT MOST WHEN YOU LIE TO ME.
YOUR FACE TELLS ME OTHERWISE
NEE-CHAN.
My mom isn't around much because of her work.
As for my dad... He's never been around at all
That's why I rely on my sister more than anybody else.

But...
If I say anything it'll cause trouble for Sensei.
shake shake
!
sigh
HEY...
LET'S EAT OUT TOMORROW?
DON'T YOU HAVE TO WORK?
I'M FINALLY ON LEAVE, SO GO SHOPPING WITH ME.
my treat!
...I'M PREPARING FOR THE EXAMS THOUGH.

YOU NEED A BREAK NOW AND THEN
I'm sorry, Nee-chan
And thank you
ASAHI, COME HERE
NEE-CHAN I'M TIRED...
LOOK AT THIS!

!?
HM! NOT BAD YOU SHOULD WEAR IT ON FORMAL OCCASIONS
ME!?
NO... FORGET IT
IS YOUR BOY-FRIEND SHY?
well now
Oh, yes!♡ Right, dear?
oh my
He he he
your hand's shaky
tap tap
Huh?
It feels like someone's staring


WELL, FANCY THAT...
WHAT A MATURE GIRLFRIEND YOU HAVE THERE

!!
Sensei...

Something's different Sensei?
smile
YOU DON'T SEEM TOO WORRIED ABOUT THE EXAMS
It's scary
OH?
A FRIEND OF YOURS?
LEAN
ER
HE'S - A TEACHER FROM SCHOOL
What!?

SO LET GO ALREADY
Ha
!!
grab
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
HONESTLY!
!
MIO YUNA
I'M MIO ASAHI'S SISTER
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER HIM.
tense
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU

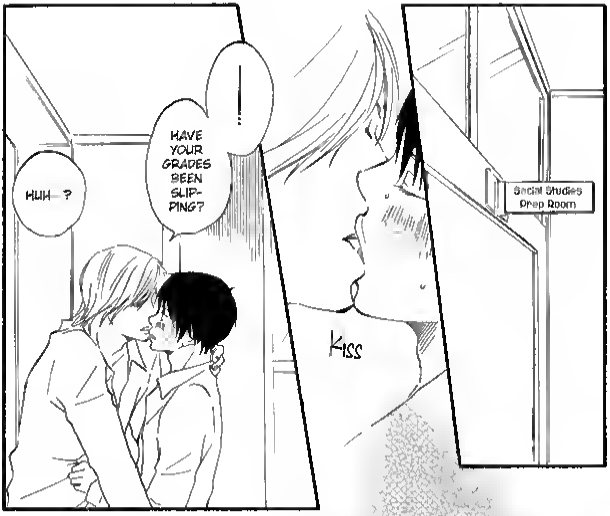
SENSEI, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIS RATHER POOR GRADES LATELY?
WAIT— NEE-CHAN!
HE'S NOT MY TEACHER!
OH? HE'S NOT? BUT NEVER MIND, AFTER ALL I HAVEN'T HAD TIME FOR THE PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS.
MIO-KUN— I WAS ASAHI-KUN'S JAPANESE HISTORY TEACHER BACK IN YEAR ONE
AH YES! THAT WAS THE TIME HE FAILED!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP THEN.
—HELLO, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M KITAHARA FUMICHIKA
NEE-CHAN!
OH, YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT
HE WAS ALWAYS TALK-ING ABOUT HOW NICE YOU WERE AND HOW THAT MOTI-VATED HIM.
OH YES!

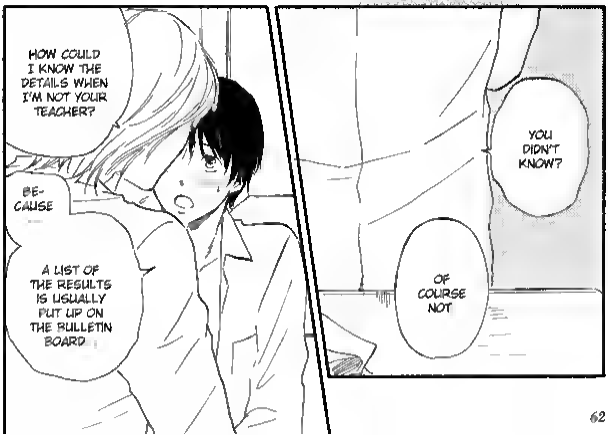
Huh?
HE OFTEN TALKED ABOUT YOU TOO.
AND HOW HE OFTEN HAD TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR EDITORIAL WORK
SMACK
Owt!
BE QUIET, YOU DE-PENDENT!
STOP IT! I'M NOT A KID!
I haven't seen such a tender expression from Sensei in a long time...
BUT HE'S VERY HARD-WORKING AND OBEDIENT SO I'M SURE ASAHI-KUN WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
HIS GRADES DID SLIP FOR A WHILE,
And it's not his usual genial expression.

pat
AM I RIGHT?
!
UH, YEAH!
I-I'm blushing
Really
OH LOOK HE'S SHY
I MUST BE GOING.
THANK YOU.
WE'RE LEAVING TOO.
caress
shock

I'M ALMOST DISAPPOINTED GIVEN HOW COMPATIBLE YOU LOOK
He he
What's so disappointing?
WELL SO YOU'RE SIBLINGS
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOVERS
AH HA ♡
PEOPLE ALWAYS THINK WE'RE A COUPLE WITH AN AGE DIFFERENCE,
BECAUSE THE RESEMBLANCE ISN'T STRONG
Ha ha
Huh?
Did sensei misunder stand too—?
It seemed as though—
Sensei had been staring at me—

But when he realized that it was my sister
His cold expression vanished and he was his usual self
Wait. He was kinder than usual
THUMP
Could it be...? Was he jealous?
ASAH!
STOP DREAMING!
Not likely...


Social Studies Prep Room
KISS
!
HAVE YOUR GRADES BEEN SLIPPING?
HUH—?


YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
OF COURSE NOT
HOW COULD I KNOW THE DETAILS WHEN I'M NOT YOUR TEACHER?
BE-CAUSE
A LIST OF THE RESULTS IS USUALLY PUT UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

HOW ANNOY-ING
AND I USUALLY FIGURE AMONG THOSE FIRST SO STUDENTS BASED ON THE OVERALL RE-SULTS.
BUT MY GRADES HAVEN'T BEEN SO GOOD LATELY.
WHY WOULD I BOTHER TO LOOK?
CRAM CLASSES JUST MEAN MORE WORK FOR ME
IF YOU GUYS WOULD JUST WORK HARD, I'LL HAVE AN EASIER TIME
Sensei hasn't changed at all
So...
I'm so dumb
To think that he might have been jealous.
LET'S DROP THE SUBJECT.

Sunsui... You broke the rule.
You said that we would do nothing more than hold each other when we're in here.
Instead...
NN...
Haa...
KISS
KISS
HAA
KISS
KISS
Slide
KISS
KISS
KISS
We ended up talking about the most unexpected thing
NN...
HAA...

DON'T
Because that instant when
your hand brushed my cheek as you walked away...
It sent a tingle through me
TOUCH MY
FACE

I don't even know why I felt that way...
DON'T...
NO...
It's not it's not it's not
Because it's Sensei...
WHAT A NAUGHTY FACE
TO FEEL AROUSED EVEN HERE
AH.
DON'T...
JTP
Haa
Ha

Haa
Haa...
Haa
What if I get aroused if anyone touches my face from now on.
Damn it...
Don't you know my body will remember this?
NN...
Kiss
Kiss
Kiss
NN?
...
THAT...
Haa
Haa
DOING SUCH A STRANGE THING WILL BECOME A BAD HABIT.
Haa.

creak
SENSEI
YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE
rattle
Haa
Haa
Haa
STOP IT, SENSEI
NN
AH
I was about to call out, but the name "Fumichika" melted on my tongue
While Sensei looked like he wanted nothing more than to swallow that sound
Haa

第3話

SENSEI
IS ACTING STRANGE
After the slightly tense atmosphere of that day
things seemed to have gone back to normal
Social Studies Prep
In this unsettled relationship am I alone in feeling that we've drawn closer somehow ?
But

It's okay even if you don't like me
Is it a sign that he doesn't see me as an outsider anymore?
Recently, Sensei
seems preoccupied and doesn't insist that I go home straightaway
It's okay even if it's only because he's gotten used to my presence
It's okay even if he still doesn't hold me
Bliss
http://bliss.diamond-fungi.net

open
!?
He's done so only once,
when I was ready to pass out.
Maybe it was the strain, but I was so tired I dozed off right after we had sex.

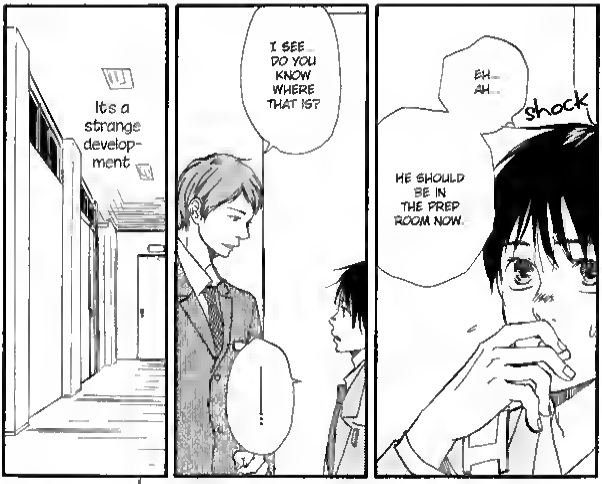
Sensei's hand which was resting on my head, was so gentle—
When I woke up, I found I'd been sleeping on Sensei's shoulder.

I pretended to be asleep
Sensei didn't seem to realize this and continued to watch the smoke from his cigarette drift out the window
Only his hand felt so gentle
I don't want to let go of that hand
Love me
Get used to me
Feel that my being here is normal
And miss me just a little when I'm not here.

You'll tell me what those words mean...
And then...
You'll forget me one day

WAH! SHE'S CUTE
DOES THE LEARNING EXCHANGE START TODAY?
CHATTER
CHATTER
Our school organizes a Learning Exchange program every year
Teachers and students from other schools come for discussions or to provide guidance on exams.
It mainly involves the first and second years since the third years are busy preparing for the exams.

AH... SORRY
BE CARE-FUL
Toudou...
A teacher with the Learning Exchange?
東堂
OH...
SORRY
!
BUMP
He seems like a really gentle person.
OH YES, DO YOU...
KNOW A KITAHARA-SENSEI WHO TEACHES JAPANESE HISTORY?


It's a strange development
I SEE... DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT IS?
EH... AH...
shock
HE SHOULD BE IN THE PREP ROOM NOW.

KNOCK
KNOCK
!?

Social Stu
Actually, I don't want any of our time together to be interrupted

My time with Sensei today has been interrupted...
IT'S THIS WAY...

Creak
...?
shift
LIM
TOU-DOU-SENSEI?
AH LIM.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE

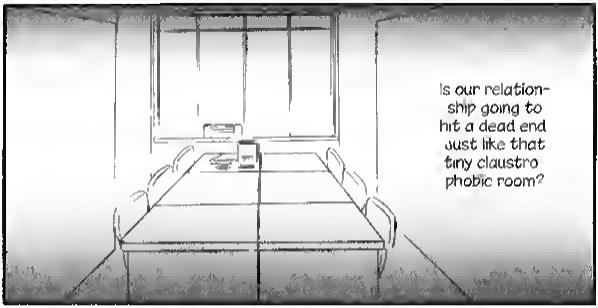
Huh?
Just now...
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HIM HERE
PUSH
—OKAY

Click
It's the first time
Although it was only for a second, he had such a strange expression...
They seem to have known each other for a long time.
"It's been a while."
Is he afraid our relationship might be discovered?
But...
Sensei isn't the type to bother about such petty things.

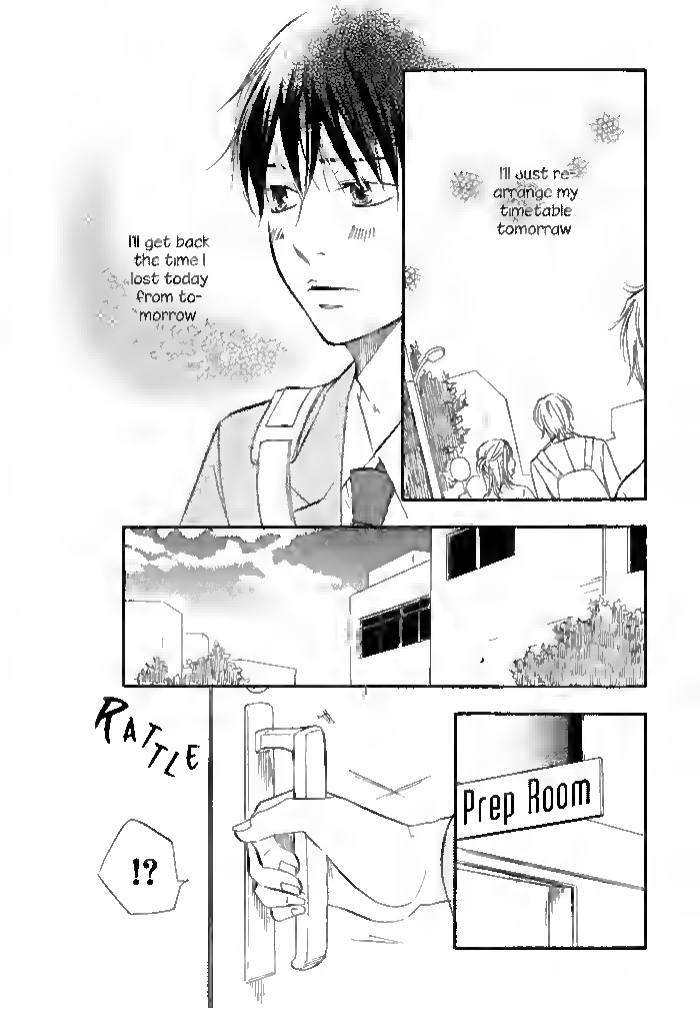
It's not like we can meet every day...
Tap
Tap
Tap
And I'm preparing for the entrance exam
Besides cram school I have to revise at home too
We can only meet once or twice a week
Even today, when it's been so long since we spent time together...

At this rate it'll be over between us soon.

What's going to happen to us ?
shift
!
With our relationship trapped in that narrow space
what's going to happen to us?


Is our relation-
ship going to
hit a dead end
just like that
tiny claustro
phobic room?

Please
anything
but that


I'll get back the time I lost today from tomorrow
I'll just re-arrange my timetable tomorraw
RATTLE
!?
Prep Room

Ever since the Learning Exchange started
The Prep Room has been locked
WHY...?
Staff Roo
As a result

Now, even talking has become so difficult...
Sensei who hates being in the staff-room so much, is now there every day
Why?
Ever since that day, he's been avoiding me...

SENSEI...!
FINALLY, IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US
WHAT'S GOING ON, SENSEI!?
WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT'S WRONG ?
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN AVOIDING ME?
I'M BUSY BECAUSE OF THE LEARNING EXCHANGE
MORE THAN I'D EXPECTED TO BE. IT'S MORE CONVENIENT FOR ME TO WORK IN THE STAFF-ROOM
YOU'RE LYING
SO WE CAN'T MEET AT OUR USUAL PLACE ANYMORE
No matter how busy you were, or how tough the work was
you would just look over the papers and muddle through somehow.

Are we Breaking up?
I've been working really hard so nobody would complain about my grades
And I've tried not to disturb him too much so he won't hate me
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I INSIST
THAT YOU... RETURN MY FEELINGS...

I ASKED YOU BE-FORE WE STARTED.
IF YOU STILL WANTED TO TRY IT EVEN IF YOU'D BE HURT
THAT'S MY LINE.
!!
SIGH
AND NOW, YOU HAVE BEEN HURT.

SMACK
!?
flop
Haa
The only words
The only words I never wanted to say
It's not as though I wanted to fall for you
Go to hell! You...

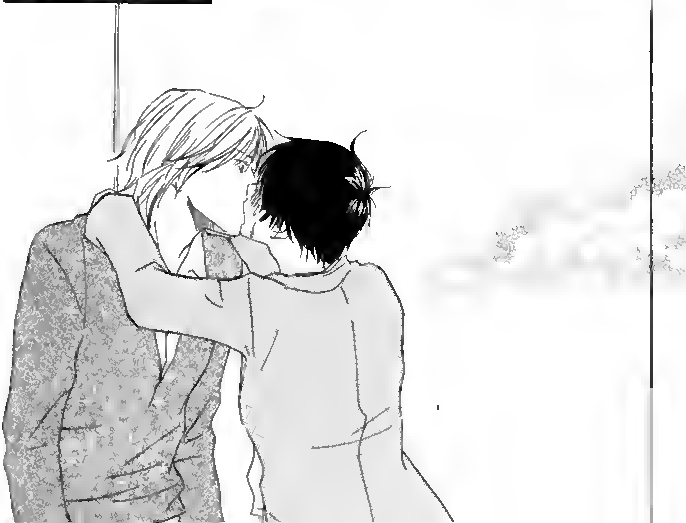
YOU...
I'M NOT GIVING UP...
I WAS THE ONE WHO FELL FOR YOU,
SO I WON'T EVER GIVE UP...
MIO?
MIO, THIS ISN'T A GOOD IDEA...
Even if he rejects me like this, my feelings are still my own
Wipe

I KNOW THAT!
GRAB
!?
!!!

TELL ME, SENSEI
—MIO
WHAT SHOULD I DO SO I CAN HATE YOU?
YOU'RE HEARTLESS BUT WHY ARE YOU SOMETIMES SO TENDER TO ME—?
WHY DO I STILL LOVE YOU EVEN AFTER YOU'VE SAID SUCH THINGS TO ME—?
Uu—
Uu
Hic
'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHY.
U
Hic
Hic
clench

YOU'LL BE GRADUATING IN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS.
HIC
Uu.
HIC.
TREAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT TINY ROOM AS A MINOR MISTAKE.
AND FORGET THE MAN WHO ONLY MADE YOU FEEL GOOD FOR A WHILE
WHAT IS THIS?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE I'M AN IDIOT!

IF I COULD HATE YOU, I WOULD HAVE EARLIER!
IF I COULD FORGET YOU, I WOULD HAVE BY NOW...



BUT...
I JUST CAN'T DO IT!
I'M NOT GIVING UP
I don't know what Sensei thought of my attitude then
Except that,
his real intention was to stop me from following him, even though he was leaving me behind...

第4話

No one has time for anyone else's problems
The school is a hive of exam-related activity
Exam preparations are underway
Even my best friend, Tsuji, doesn't ask whether I'm okay these days.

After that incident,
Sensei refused to have any more contact with me
I'm not giving up
But I don't know
What to do anymore

ASAH!,
LET'S GO OUT FOR DINNER
AW, COME ON
NO THANKS.
I'M NOT GOING
snatch
!?
HEY! I'VE GOT EXAMS TO STUDY FOR.

I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET SOME FRESH AIR
IT'S NO USE STUDYING IF YOUR HEART'S NOT IN IT!

AFTER THIS YOU'LL HAVE TO EARN YOUR KEEP
PLUS THE SUIT TO CELEBRATE IN ADVANCE YOUR ENTERING UNIVERSITY
YUP.
ONEE-CHAN.
THIS PLACE IS PRETTY EXPENSIVE, RIGHT?
And it's a private room.
chow
chow
MM. THIS IS REALLY DELICIOUS! ♡
chow
ASAHI

How does Nee-chan know this?

Although I want to tell her not to bother with me the truth is I don't really want to be left alone

And Nee-chan knows this

I TOLD YOU I HATE IT MOST WHEN PEOPLE LIE TO ME
EVERYONE HAS SECRETS THEY WANT TO KEEP
BE-CAUSE ...
If I tell Nee-chan about my relationship with Sensei...
How will she look at me. ?
OW....
Pinch

IT HAPPENED WHEN I WAS YOUNGER
IT WAS LIKE A CIRCUS WHEN HIS WIFE GOT DRAGGED IN. WE ALMOST WENT TO COURT.
ALTHOUGH THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW
YOU!
DO YOU KNOW HOW UNHAPPY YOU LOOKED JUST NOW?
NO
THAT EXPRESSION,
WAS THE SAME ONE I HAD WHEN I WANTED TO KILL MYSELF OVER A FAILED RELATIONSHIP.
!?

NOBODY WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ANYTHING
YOU WERE TOO YOUNG THEN
I HAD NO IDEA
MOM HERSELF SUFFERED BECAUSE OF DAD.
SO TALK TO ME ASAHI
YOUR AFFAIR CAN'T BE MORE DISGRACEFUL THAN MINE WAS
CALL IT OUR FAMILY TRADITION... TO LOVE SOMEONE BEYOND ALL REASON

BUT MY SITUATION IS...
FAR MORE DESPERATE
HOW SO?
I CAN'T TELL YOU
whisper
EXCUSE ME, MORE WINE PLEASE.
AND ANOTHER GLASS.
WAIT...
I CAN'T DRINK...
NONSENSE, OF COURSE YOU CAN!
DIDN'T I SAY WE'RE CELEBRATING IN ADVANCE YOUR GETTING INTO UNIVERSITY!?

HOW OLD IS SHE?
OLDER
ABOUT YOUR AGE
WORKING AS?
A TEACHER
HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF THEN?
NO, THERE'S NO SPOUSE

Why am I telling Nee-chan all this?
I DON'T KNOW
BEEN LEADING YOU ON?

THAT PERSON EVEN SAID I'LL FORGET EVERY-THING ONCE I GRADUATE
THAT PERSON SAID IT WASN'T POSSIELE BETWEEN US
Why

THAT OFTEN HAPPENS
Ah,
My minds going numb
Really
I GUESS THAT PERSON
REALLY DOESN'T LIKE MEN AFTER ALL.
If this goes on..
AND SO, HE DOESN'T WANT ME.
Ah,

Oh no
Slide
.....
I DON'T THINK I MISHEARD YOU BUT I NEED TO CONFIRM THIS
ASAHI.
AH...

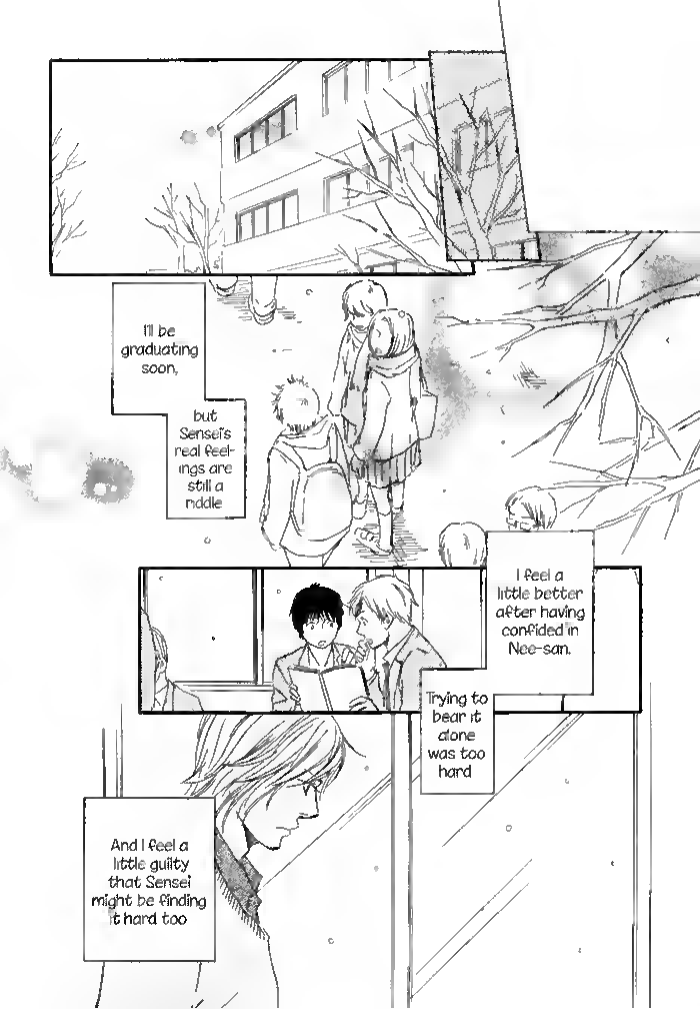
THE PERSON YOU LIKE IS A MAN?
!
nod
IT'S DEFINITELY...
MORE TRAGIC THAN MY AFFAIR
HN...
NO WONDER, SO IT'S...
A MALE TEACHER
...WELL, HE SEEMS TO HAVE A CONSCIENCE JUDGING FROM HIS ATTITUDE

CHRIST.
YOUR AFFAIR'S MORE OF A DISGRACE THAN MINE WAS.
AH...
Con-science!? That person?
He was so cruel
IT'S IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS IF HE DUMPS YOU.
!?
ANY RATIONAL ADULT WOULD STOP YOU FROM GETTING INTO THIS TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP.
BUT...
SENSEI NEVER SAID ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
HE SAID WHAT WE HAD WAS ONLY PHYSICAL AND THAT
HE WOULD NEVER RETURN MY FEEL-INGS.
HE EVEN SAID THAT I'LL FORGET HIM SOON...

I CAN'T APPROVE OF YOUR ACTIONS OR SUPPORT YOU. NOT THIS TIME
Sensei? Considerate?
Quitting half way and running away...?
IT'S OBVIOUS HE'S GOT YOUR WELFARE AT HEART
NOBODY WOULD BE KIND TO THE PERSON THEY'RE DUMPING.
HE'S BEEN VERY CONSIDERATE OF YOUR FEELINGS SO FAR
WELL, NATURALLY

But
It's true that Sensei, who's so indifferent to everyone,
Did show me a little tenderness.

NEE-CHAN...
I WON'T TELL YOU TO HURRY AND GET OVER IT.
HOWEVER, NOW I KNOW WHY YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING SO DAZED.
WORK OUT THE REST YOURSELF
NOW — LET'S DRINK SOME MORE
Every-thing was a blur after that.
I didn't go to school the next day be-cause of an awful hangover
Mom gave Nee-chan an earful for letting me drink.
But since we were both semi-conscious it pretty much went in one ear and out the other
Even later, Nee-chan never said a word to mom
She never has
Seeing the gratitude in my eyes, Nee-chan pinched my cheek again
Thank you, Nee chan.

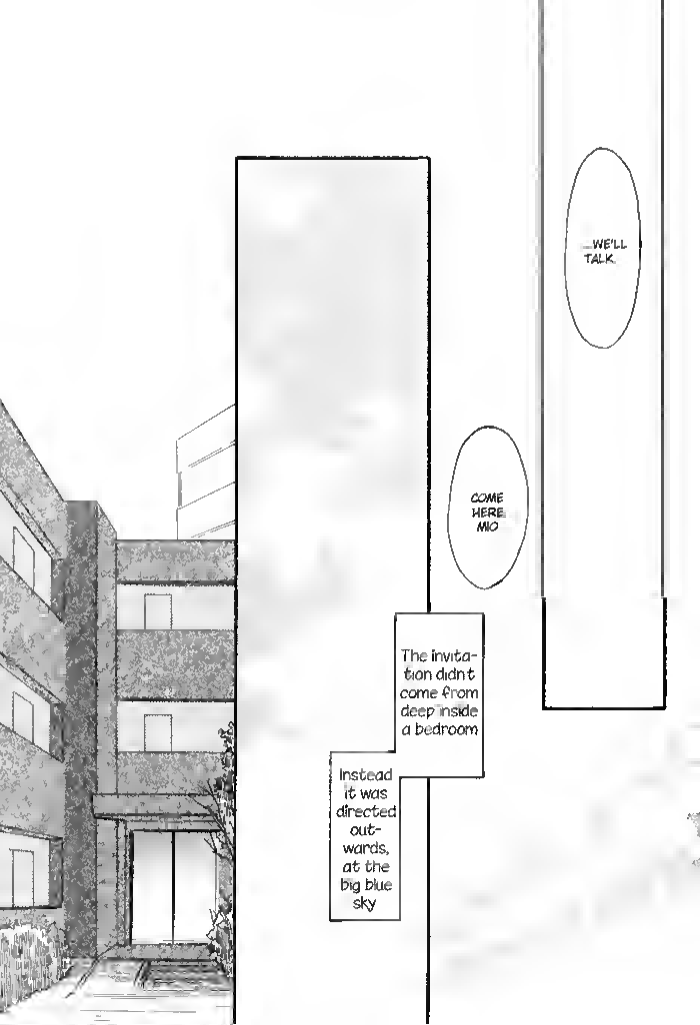

I'll be graduating soon,
but Sensei's real feelings are still a riddle
I feel a little better after having confided in Nee-san.
Trying to bear it alone was too hard
And I feel a little guilty that Sensei might be finding it hard too

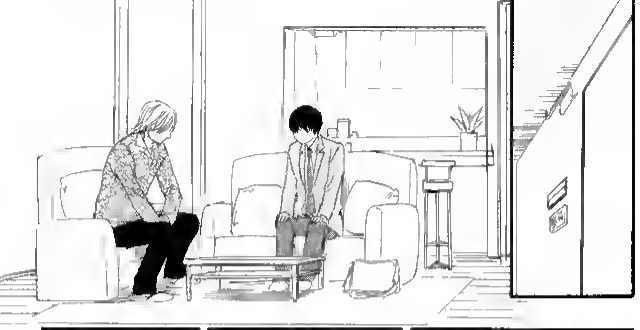
My first wish has been granted now that the exams are finally over
Wanting to know the results,
I've come to look for Sensei
Knock knock
Side
OH?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU

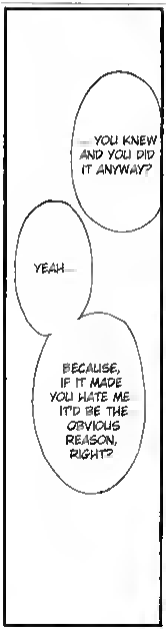
OKAY.
COME ON IN.
HUH ?
I WON'T PUT YOU ON THE SPOT ANYMORE AFTER THIS,
SO, WILL YOU LET ME VISIT YOU AT HOME JUST ONCE?
Here in this cramped little room
the only memories are those of us making out to the sounds of AMNESIAC
DURING THE EXAMS
I KEPT THINKING ABOUT SENSEI ABOUT YOU FUMICHIKA.

I FEEL THAT EVEN AFTER I ENTER UNIVERSITY, I WON'T FORGET YOU
BUT...
IF IT WERE TO END LIKE THIS, I'D STILL BE UPSET
SO CAN WE SPEND THE VERY LAST TIME TOGETHER SOMEWHERE ELSE?
SOMEWHERE ELSE WHERE WE CAN TALK. JUST TALK. WE DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE
THOUGH YOU SAID YOU'D GIVE ME ONLY PLEASURE, I'D LIKE TO TRY DOING SOMETHING ELSE, EVEN IF IT'S LESS PLEASANT
MIO...?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL LIKE I'VE PUT YOU ON THE SPOT, OR THAT I'M TIRESOME
BUT,
I have nothing left to lose now
I'm throwing caution to the wind.
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO THEN TELL ME.
PLEASE DON'T USE "I'M NO LONGER INTERESTED" AS AN EXCUSE
I UNDER-STAND

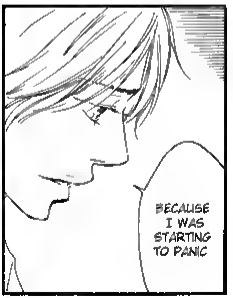

...WE'LL TALK.
COME HERE, MIO
The invitation didn't come from deep inside a bedroom
Instead it was directed outwards, at the big blue sky




—YOU KNEW AND YOU DID IT ANYWAY?
YEAH...
BECAUSE, IF IT MADE YOU HATE ME IT'D BE THE OBVIOUS REASON, RIGHT?

I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SAYING SUCH THINGS, EVEN NOW
EVEN AFTER I GAVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER

WHY HAVE YOU BEEN AVOIDING ME?


BECAUSE I WAS STARTING TO PANIC

BUT, WERE YOU AVOIDING ME BECAUSE...
BECAUSE YOU REMINDED ME OF MY YOUNGER SELF
...MANY TIMES
SEEING YOU WOULD BRING BACK MANY UNPLEASANT MEMORIES
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DO YOU REMEMBER TOUDOU-SENSEI WHO CAME BY DURING THE LEARNING EXCHANGE?
HE AND I HAD THE SAME RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE NOW
.....
With that person!?

THOUGH HE NEVER GAVE ME THAT IMPRESSION...
IF IT WEREN'T ALREADY OVER FOR US IT WOULD BE
THIS
HE'S ALREADY MARRIED WITH CHILDREN
EXCEPT,
I WASN'T AS STRONG AS YOU ARE
I WAS THE ONE WHO FELL FOR HIM.

EVEN THOUGH HE TOLD ME THAT I WOULD REGRET IT SOMEDAY
EVEN SO, I LOVED HIM AND WE HAD SEX
AFTER I GRADUATED, IT WAS NATURAL THAT WE COULDN'T MEET DAILY
AFTER THAT, I REALLY FORGOT ABOUT HIM... PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?
WHAT THE HELL? I KEPT BERATING MYSELF
HOW COULD THIS FEELING OF LOVE JUST VANISH LIKE THAT?
IT'S NOT AS IF ANYTHING HAPPENED, YET MY FEELINGS JUST FADED AWAY SO NATURALLY
YEARS LATER, IT DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER ME WHEN I HEARD OF HIS MARRIAGE AT A CLASS GATHERING

I WAS THE ONE WHO FELT I WOULD NEVER LOVE ANYONE ELSE AGAIN, YET I FORGOT ABOUT HIM ALL THE SAME.
WHEN I REALIZED I WAS SUCH A COLD PERSON, I JUST COMPLETELY GAVE UP ON MYSELF
BUT TALKING TO YOU NOW HAS HELPED ME TO REMEMBER
smile.
I'D ACTUALLY FORGOTTEN WHY I CHOSE THIS ROUTE AFTER LEAVING UNIVERSITY.
BY THE TIME I GOT OVER IT, I WAS A TEACHER
IT WAS PROBABLY DUE TO HIS INFLUENCE
"YOU'LL FORGET ME ONE DAY."

That prediction then,
wasn't just his intuition, but his experience as well...
IF YOU SAID I WAS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THAT TEACHER, THAT WOULD BE MORE HONEST...
I'M NOT LIKE YOU SO DON'T LUMP US TOGETHER
BUT, I WON'T FORGET...

WHY MUST YOU THINK THAT WAY!?
JUST BECAUSE YOU FAILED ONCE DOESN'T MEAN YOU'LL NEVER SUCCEED AGAIN!
ALL YOU DID WAS GIVE UP!
FUMICHIKA...
EVEN IF THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS TRUE LOVE I'LL BE YOUR TRUE LOVE
DON'T DECIDE TO GIVE UP BY YOURSELF

EVEN IF THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS TRUE LOVE, I'LL BE YOUR TRUE LOVE
DON'T DECIDE TO GIVE UP BY YOURSELF

So much that it's hopeless
He looks so rueful.
.....
But... I like him even with this expression.
第5話

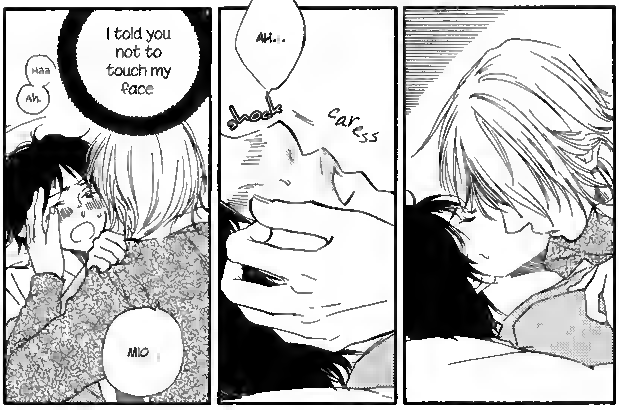
DID THAT TEACHER TRY TO MEET UP WITH YOU WHEN YOU WERE FREE?
— I TOLD HIM IT WASN'T POSSIBLE
AND AS A FORM TEACHER, I HAD A LOT OF WORK...
SO YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS TRYING.
THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
BALANCE IS IMPORTANT.

MY FAMILY'S THE SAME
MOM WAS THE ONLY ONE MAKING ALL THE EFFORT
BEFORE HE LEFT US... DAD WAS ALWAYS COMPLAINING THAT HE COULDN'T DO ORDINARY WORK THAT IT DIDN'T SUIT HIM AT ALL
ONE PERSON'S EFFORT ISN'T ENOUGH...
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS.
THAT NO MATTER WHAT I DO, YOU STILL WON'T GIVE UP.

...AM I TIRE-SOME?
rise
NO YOU AREN'T.
grab
AND I HAD ACTUALLY PLANNED ON LETTING YOU OFF.
!?
!

Push
DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS IF WE HAVE SEX?
I'M GOING TO ENTER YOUR BODY AND COME WHILE I'M INSIDE YOU.

YOU'RE A TOY.
YOU'LL HAVE TO ENDURE AN EXPERIENCE YOUR BODY NEED NEVER GO THROUGH...
By now...
This thing
THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN MIO, DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND?
I DO
SO...
Please...


I told you not to touch my face
Haa
Ah.
MIO
AH...
cheek
caress

Did he just
Say something weird ?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU FORGET ME AFTER YOU ENTER UNIVERSITY
IF YOU WERE A GIRL I'D GET YOU PREGNANT THEN MARRY YOU
!?
IF ONLY I COULD DO IT THOROUGHLY AND GET YOU PREGNANT
HN?
HUH?
W WHAT?

SEN
SENSEI
THAT WOULD BE EXTREME
YES, IT WOULD,
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TURNED ME INTO THIS KIND OF MAN
WHY DO YOU ONLY THINK OF THE MOST NEGATIVE OUTCOME?
hug
BESIDES, I WAS THE ONE WHO FELL FOR SENSEI.
BECAUSE I'M BASICALLY A NEGATIVE PERSON
PLEASE DON'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT EVEN IF I WERE A GIRL
OKAY

For a very long time...
Regret over his failure and the hurt he received made him timid in love
and that hasn't changed
It's likely that...
SO EVEN IF SOMEONE SAID THEY LOVED ME, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT...
I'D INSIST ON PLAYING IT COOL...
...I KNOW SENSEI IS A VERY GOOD PERSON.
HN.
AND I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING BAD TO ME
HN.

So Please pat my head gently
WHEN YOU PRAISE ME I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE
BUT I LOVE YOU ANYWAY

Please kiss me
Please hug me some more
NN...
NO...
AH...

tense
tremble
tremble
AH
AH
Haa
NO
Haa
Haa
AH
HAA
Haa
Ah
lift

tense
ARE YOU COMING IN?
YES
I'M COMING IN...
tremble
Haa
Ah
shiver

thrust
Haa
Haa
Haa
Ah
Ah
Ah
thrust
thrust
thrust
Ah!
What do you mean...?
I might as well just hurt you...
thrust
thrust
Ah!
Squish
thrust
Squish
thrust
I want to be responsible for you, Mio...

I KNOW NOW THAT I'VE HELD YOU, I CAN NEVER LET YOU GO
IT FEELS SO GOOD INSIDE YOU
DON'T IDIOT
Why... Up until just now... you hadn't said a word.
thrust
SO GOOD... MIO...
Haa
Haa
YOU'RE SO TIGHT...
Haa
I'M COMING...
JUST AS I HAD IMAGINED
HE REALLY
STOP IMAGINING
BUT A CERTAIN BRAT WOULD ONLY LET ME USE MY FINGERS TO...
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT WAS FOR ME IN THE PREP ROOM?
YOU SHOULD TRY AND PUT YOURSELF IN MY SHOES...
AH
Uwah!
Ah!

Ah!
Don't
Ahh!
I hate this.
Don't do this.
thrust
thrust
MIO
SAY IT FEELS GOOD SAY YOU'RE COMING
thrust
Ah...
NN
NN
I'M COMING
AH
COM I'M COMING
YOU'RE SO CUTE MIO I LOVE YOU
I WANT TO MAKE EVERY INCH OF YOU MINE

I WILL NEVER LET YOU GO

I told you it's just friends from work.
We're just going for drinks!
Hey! Let's go, Mio!
Absolutely not, you're still a minor.
Now listen, I'll pick you up at ten. So tell me where you're going.
.....
Hello? Mio are you there?
It's been like this ever since that day
Sensei seems to have abandoned all his doubts
I will never let you go
It's such a reversal of his previous attitude that I feel a bit cheated even slightly annoyed by him
He calls me every day after classes are over and after my shift ends,
And he always wants to know who I'm meeting with

I'M TIMID BY NATURE
annoyed
SO IF THE OTHER PERSON DOESN'T WANT IT, I WON'T INSIST
BY THE WAY,
DID YOU SCARE OFF TOUDOU-SENSEI WITH THIS BEHAVIOR?
True to his word, Sensei is really quite possessive
YOUR ANGRY FACE ISN'T VERY CONVINC-ING WHEN YOU'RE SITTING LIKE THIS
BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO DISLIKE IT, MIO
!! annoyed
YOU LIKE IT WHEN I'M POSSESSIVE, RIGHT?
NO, I DON'T...

...AM I GOING TO BECOME USELESS IF YOU CONTINUE TO SPOIL ME?
YES DO
THEN I CAN BE COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU
He's completely different from before.
It seems like a load is off Sensei's mind changing his attitude completely
He treats me like a prince, and indulges me in every way possible
He cooks for me
He washes my hair
He even helps me to dress.
It all makes me a little uncomfortable as I've been raised to be independent

CAN YOU STAY OVER TONIGHT... AND TOMORROW?
YEAH... I CAN
Kisses which I had to beg him for,
are now freely given
I came clean with my family about my staying over at Sensei's house.
I can't keep lying and there's no benefit in hiding it from them
...YOU DON'T FIND IT STRANGE?
FIND WHAT STRANGE?
ERM...
WELL... BECAUSE,
YOU'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE JUST LIKE THAT

HOW DO I PUT IT... MOM DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING OF COURSE...
BUT NEE-CHAN DOES
ABOUT THE PERSON I LIKE.
I DIDN'T TELL HER YOUR NAME BUT I SAID IT WAS A MUCH OLDER MAN
HEHE
SHE WAS AS SURPRISED AS I THOUGHT SHE'D BE
AND THEN...?
YOUR SISTER... WHAT DID SHE SAY...?
SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO MIND THAT YOU'RE A MAN... SHE SEEMED MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE OLDER.
SHE SAID: "HE'S TEN YEARS OLDER. DON'T GET CHEATED," AND "REMEMBER, THIS ISN'T EN-KO."*
MY SISTER USED TO DO EDITORIAL WORK ON SOCIAL CUSTOMS SO SHE'S NOT FAZED BY GAYS
SHE EVEN TEASED ME AND SAID THAT I'M A CLASSIC CASE OF REBELLING AGAINST PARENTAL CONTROL.
SHE ALSO SAID THAT SUCH CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE GAY AND TOLD ME I NEED TO KEEP THIS FROM MOM FOR NOW.
OH... I SEE
she said she would think of an excuse for me.

* Enjo-kosai: A practice which originated in Japan where older men give money or luxury gifts to women for their companionship and sexual favours

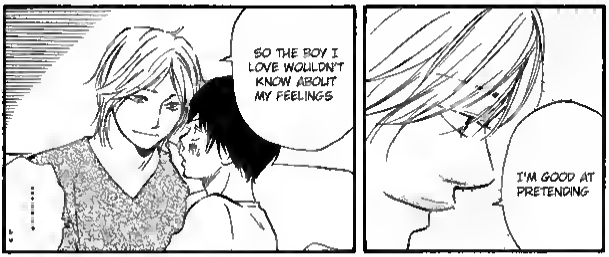
BUT SHE SAID SHE'D LIKE TO MEET YOU SOON
Actually you've already met me.
In fact...
Nee-chan discussed this a few times with me after I came out to her
And then...
LISTEN, ASAH!
Ever the pragmatist Nee-chan finally gave me this suggestion
FRANKLY GAYS ARE IN THE MINORITY SO WORKING IN ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE DIFFICULT
BANKS AND THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE RIGID EMPLOYERS WHO FROWN ON HIRING SINGLES, SO DON'T APPLY TO THOSE PLACES
BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT!
THAT'S IT--!

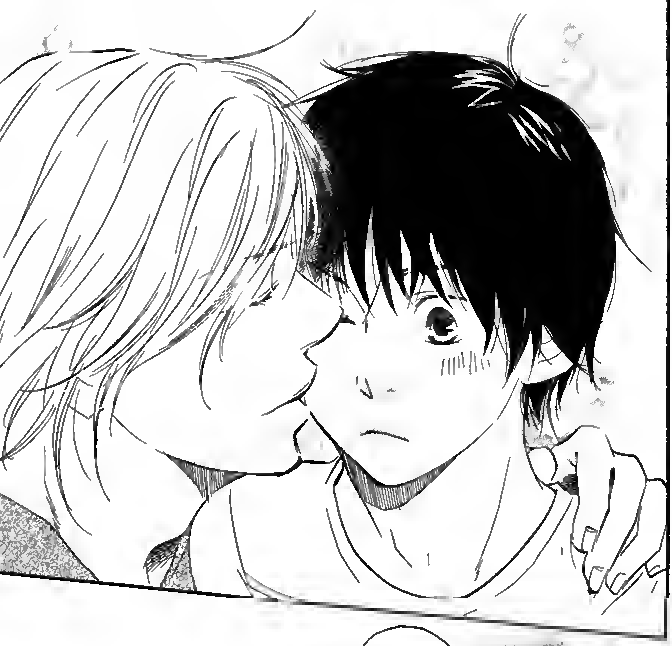
AND SHE ALSO SAID THAT,
?
BECAUSE EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN A TABOO RELATION-SHIP.
WOW...
...THAT'S AMAZING.
IF WE'RE IN A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP,
WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT ADULT ADOP-TION.
AND ABOUT BEING LISTED AS THE NEXT OF KIN IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES... AFTER ALL, COUPLES WHO COHABIT AREN'T OFFICIALLY RECOG-NIZED...
THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT... THE MORE IT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF TROUBLE IF WE DON'T CONSIDER ADULT ADOPTION...
.....
I guess even Fumichika will be scared off by this..
Ha ha.

He he he...
NO...
NO. IN FACT
IT'S GREAT!
HA HA HA!
shock
Ha ha ha!
Ha ha ha!
WH... WHAT? WAS IT TOO MUCH?
pat
YOU'RE ALWAYS SURPRISING ME
...I AM?
HEHE
YUP. YOU NEVER FAIL TO SURPRISE ME.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU
THAT'S CAUSE I'M STILL GROWING UP.

HM?
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S THAT LOOK
.....

BECAUSE I'M A TEACHER.
YOU NEVER LOOKED AT ME THAT WAY WHEN WE WERE IN SCHOOL


SO THE BOY I LOVE WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT MY FEELINGS
.....
I'M GOOD AT PRETENDING



I LOVE YOU, MIO

I love you too

And I'll be with you forever

END

あしたのきみは ここにいない

崎谷はるひ 山本小鉄子 作画

SUN RUTILE R COLLECTION

あしたのきみは ここにいない

崎谷はるひ 山本小鉄子

幻冬舎コミックス

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高校3年の一尾朝陽は、教師・北原小春と秘密を共有している。

鍵を掛けた社会科準備室で、放課後一時間だけキスをして

気持ちいいことだけをする

やさしく、でも踏み込ませないで交わされる秘密――

一方通行のせつない恋に朝陽は……!?

描き下ろしマンガを収録

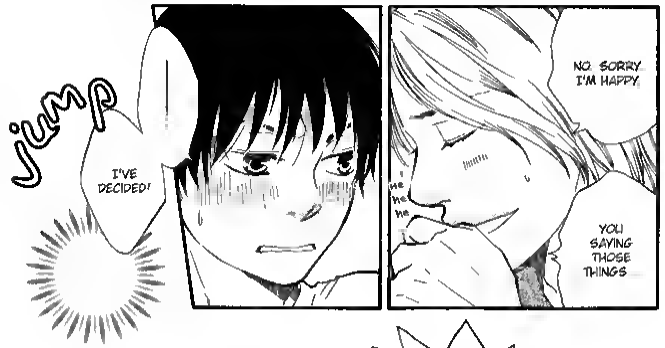
あしたのきみは ここにいない

whoosh
It was a windy day
It was a windy day when I was coming back from the post office.
DID SOMETHING GET INTO MY EYE!?
!?
Ow!
Ow. Ow!
Ah...
???
Don't look at them!
Sensei, there's a weird person over there!
shock
Contact lens left eye!
It fell.
[true story] I gave up (sob)
The first story's teacher.
The second and third story's...
Fourth story...
WELL MIO... IT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE GROW EVERY DAY.
WHY ARE YOUR BANGS DIFFERENT?
PAT

YOU KNOW
I DID SOME THINKING AND
WE CAN'T BE LIKE THIS
cute kid
WHAT?
YOU KNOW HOW I'M PAMPERING YOU LIKE THIS...
clink

HM.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT...
DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR COFFEE?
BUT I'LL DRINK IT! ♡
I MEAN.
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING
IF YOU KEEP PAMPERING ME AND I TURN INTO A BAD GUY DURING ROUGH TIMES
THE ONE SUFFERING WILL BE YOU FUMICHIKA.
ROUGH TIMES... GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE?
AN EXAMPLE...
IF FUMICHIKA GETS A FEVER AND IS STUCK IN BED SOMETHING LIKE NURSING

WHAT!?
YOU ARE OLDER THAN ME BY TEN YEARS AREN'T YOU?
He he he
Aha ha ha!
NURSING
He he he


jump
I'VE DECIDED!
NO. SORRY. I'M HAPPY.
He he he
YOU SAYING THOSE THINGS

point
I'LL MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND,
THAT THE THINGS YOU DO TO ME ARE BAD

...HOW?
EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO TO ME — I'M GONNA RETURN IT BACK TO YOU EXACTLY THE SAME WAY!
Hmph!
it's really annoying every single day, and even on the phone i'm dreading it, you know!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT I THINK...

Stayed over in the end
Zzzz...
OH,
MIO...
MIO, ITS MORNING
Nn ?
drowsy
GOOD MORNING
Nn

First is the usual call from me.
I've got to be more determined.
Damm it...
WASH YOUR FACE AND HEAD OUT
It's always like this

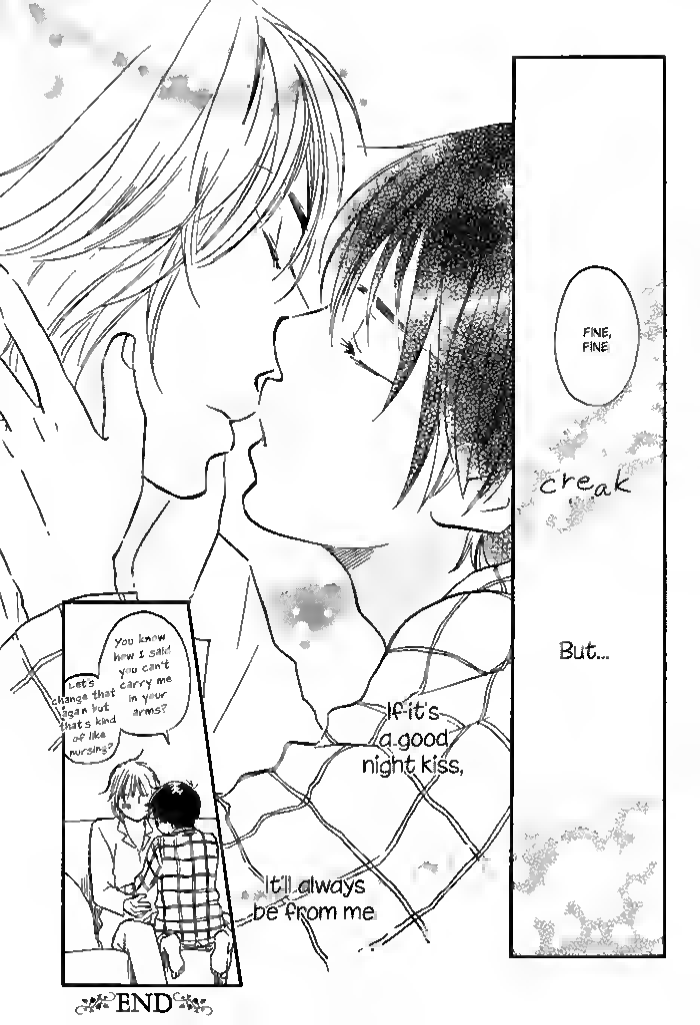
Alright, let's pester him then.
FUMICHIKA, WHAT WERE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
WERE YOU SMOKING?
WERE YOU SMOKING WHILE WAITING FOR MY CALL?
He he he...
YEAH
I don't think it would hurt if I hang up soon...
ring ring ring
YES?
AH IT'S ME
AFTER SCHOOL, I'M GOING TO WORK.
BE CAREFUL

MIO I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH
OKAY!
From here on it's the real counterattack.
FUMICHIKA, ♡
Cuuu
Cuuu
SO YOU'RE EVEN HELPING ME WITH MY CLOTHES...
WELL YOU ALWAYS DO THIS TO ME DON'T YOU?
IT'S REALLY RARE FOR YOU TO OFFER TO JOIN, ISN'T IT?
AH!
IT'S BAD UNDRESSING BY YOURSELF!

Fuu
It's so tiring...
Splash
Haa
How should I put it...
scrub
scrub
scrub
scrub
scrub
scrub
scrub
Always touching
Always touching
IT'S FUMICHIKA'S "THINGS TO DO" SO IT MUST BE STRESSFUL NOT DOING ANYTHING FOR A CHANGE RIGHT?
BUT
Slurp
THAT WAS THE BEST.
Haa
splash
SO THIS IS THE GREAT FEELING YOU ALWAYS GET MIO?

AND THEN WHEN WE GET OUT YOU'RE GOING TO WIPE MY BODY OFF AND DRESS ME IN MY PAJAMAS ♡
He's pleased...
I AM THINKING THINKING OF HOW HAPPY I AM.
FUMICHIKA, ARE YOU NOT THINKING OF ANYTHING?
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I EVEN GOT A CALL FROM MIO THIS WHOLE DAY I'VE BEEN SO CARED FOR BY HIM ♡
Hard-core binding predisposition.
He is not a situation to give in!
I SEE
AND IF THESE THINGS ALL HAPPEN TOMORROW TOO I'LL BE HAPPY! ♡
I'm tired
NO MORE...
EH?
Just one day!? Mio you've got no willpower

In the end.
THIS IS MORE RELAXING
chuckle
YEP, WELCOME BACK
MIO?
LET'S GO TO BED


FINE, FINE
creak
But...
If it's a good night kiss,
It'll always be from me
You know how I said you can't carry me in your arms?
Let's change that again but that's kind of like nursing!
END

あとがき。 by 山本小鉄子★

ここまで読んで下さり ありがとうです。
崎谷センセの原作をいただき マンガ化させていただいたワケですが
どちらかというと ドタバタを描いてる私が このような 切ない系の
マンガを描けるかしら と。無事に こうして コミックスになり
とても うれしいです。
心をつなげず 身体だけというシチュエーションでしたが
いざ心を開いた時の 史春センセイの言動には
読者の皆サンのみならず 描いてる私も「うふゃあ～」と
なりました(笑) ほんとに(笑) エロい(笑)
あと お姉さんが お気に入りのキャラです。
めったに女性を描かないが
描くのが楽しいです。
史は次回作にも
登場するので
うれしい限りです。
最後に小さくてアレですが 崎谷センセイ。
宜しくお願いします!

描いてから あ と思ったんですけど センセは くわえタバコとか しなさそうだ。

崎谷はるひ

SAKIYA HARUHI

あとがき

コミックス「あしたのきみはここにいない」をお読みの皆様、こんにちは原作の崎谷はるひです。北原とミオの物語、いかがでしたでしょうか。

今回のお話をいただいてから、作画が山本小鉄子先生になると決定したのち、まっさきに思ったのが「山本先生の色男が見てみたい」ということでした。そしてその願いというか欲望というか（笑）は、見事な形で叶えていただけたと思います。物憂がやわらかくて読めなくて、でもどうしようもなく色気のある北原という男を、マンガで拝見するたび、「ああ、こりゃミオも落ちてもしかたないよね」と、一読者として楽しませていただいておりました。

ことに、北原のうっすら細めた目つきの色っぽさには、読者さんもたぶらかされたのではないかと思っております。対してミオ、素直でまっすぐで、ひねくれまくった男に翻弄されつくして、へとへとになりつつ諦めない、若者のきれいなところを集めた主役も、生き生きと描いて頂いて、とても嬉しかったです。さんざん泣かされておりましたが、それでも「がんばるもん」と踏ん張るミオは健気で、自分で作ったキャラクターながら、マンガという形を通してみると、本当にかわいらしい子だなと思えました。

姉の夕奈も、美人で勝ち気なお姉ちゃんとして、ミオのお尻をひっぱたいてくれて、とても気に入っています。

雑誌ルチルにて、またも山本先生の作画によるマンガが連載開始です。微妙に本作とリンクしている話であり、夕奈も登場します。今度は少し大人の話になりますが、よろしければそちらもご覧いただきたいと思います。

最後になりますが、山本先生、本当にお疲れさまでした。いままでコミックス原案をいくつかやらせて頂いたことはありましたが、コラボレーションであったり男女ラブの単発であったりという感じで、完全な「マンガ原作のみ」というのは今作がはじめてでした。まだまだ不慣れなため、山本先生には、いろいろとお手数をかけたかと思います。すみません。巻末の書き下ろしマンガについては、原案なしで書いて頂きました。非常にキャラクターを掴んで頂いて、ありがたいことだと思いました。北原、だめすぎでかわいい。

今後発売されるドラマCDや小説バージョンの文庫化もあり、これからも山本先生にはお世話になると思いますので、よろしくお願いいたします。

この機会をくださった担当さんにも、いろいろお世話になりました。ありがとうございました。

そしてなにより、こんな文字ばかりのページ（笑）を読んで頂いた読者様にも、感謝の言葉を捧げたいと思います。

ありがとうございました。

□初出□

第1話……ルチルvol.12（2006年3月）
第2話……ルチルvol 13（2006年5月）
第3話……ルチルvol 14（2006年8月）
第4話……ルチルvol 15（2006年11月）
第5話……ルチルvol.16（2007年1月）
4コママンガ……描き下ろし
かわいいこ……描き下ろし
あとがき……書き下ろし

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著者●崎谷はるひ（さきや）
　　山本小鉄子（やまもとこてつこ）
発行人●伊藤嘉彦
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